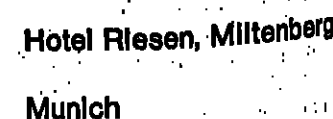


courtyards, gardens, wine-cellars, swimming pools. Hotels of glass and concrete and air-conditioned throughout. Just as you're used to in New York or Tokio or Mexico City. Hotels for business people, gourmets, tourists, for the romantically inclined and for those in love. Nowhere else in the world is the range of hospitality so varied.



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litical temperament, geographical position and particular interests, which they each interpret in the light of their history.

The Reagan administration came to office resolved to make Nato the cornerstone of its foreign policy. This is clearly in the United States' interest: it needs the alliance more than before. The weakening of the United States does not alter the fact that it is the only major power in the alliance.

The qualitative difference between the United States and other Nato members constitutes an inner imbalance that needs to be brought under control. On closer inspection, it turns out that all the other members of the alliance are special cases too. The 15 Nato members have in common membership of and loyalty to the alliance.

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The diversity of the members could be a weakness, but it is also a source of its strength: the variety of their ideas and experience, the diversity of their material and intellectual backgrounds, complement one another.

It is in the nature of a free alliance that its leadership cannot be a matter solely for the leading power or for that leading power and a number of medium-sized powers.

All members must be involved in leadership. And therefore foreign policy must have its legitimacy at home. All the governments in Nato, even the smallest, lead at home — and they can only do so if they do not give the impression of being remote controlled from outside.

Inevitably, there are differences in the degree of cooperation, depending on the capacity of each member to make a contribution — for example in the field of intelligence, diplomacy, economic power, military power.

Here the leading power clearly holds the trumps, followed by France, Britain and the Federal Republic of Germany. However, no one in the alliance knows more about Libya than the Italians, the Dutch are still the best informed about Indonesia and it would be folly to ignore the knowledge and connections that Portuguese industry and the civil service have gained in southern Africa.

Outside the Nato area, few member states are capable of acting. And the resources they put outside the area will have to be replaced inside the area by other members. All should contribute to making up "at home" for what others

Continued on page 2

Middle East states play it warily over Gulf

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Saudi Arabia's foreign policy is extremely complex... It keeps well distant from Moscow, but its distance from Washington has also grown.

Riyadh would like to keep both great powers out of the Gulf, because it believes that the presence of one would attract the other. American protection is desired, but at a certain distance.

The Saudi dynasty is well aware of the



Exchanging ideas. American Secretary of State Alexander Haig in Bonn with West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher (left) and the Chancellor, Helmut Schmidt. (Photo: dpa)

Haig winds-up tour with cordial talks in Bonn

Bonn was the last stopover on US Secretary of State Haig's nine-day visit to the Middle East and Europe. It was also the shortest.

The cordiality of his meeting with Chancellor Schmidt and Foreign Minister Genscher was genuine — despite a number of problems between Bonn and Washington.

They all know each other from the days when Haig was Nato Supreme Commander in Brussels. And Herr Genscher visited his US opposite number in Washington recently.

However, the pleasant nature of their meeting did not eliminate all the problems.

It was already known that Hag's tone was more moderate than that of his colleague, Weinberger from the Pentagon.

Haig was clearly trying to calm a certain amount of Bonn shock at Weinberger's forthrightness.

In Washington, too, realities are not always as fearsome as the tough talk might lead us to believe.

However, Weinberger's criticisms are not the only ones. There are increasingly critical voices being raised in the White House about the role of the Europeans, especially West Germany, in Nato.

What goes? Weinberger's hard line or Haig's softer one? The Bonn government probably will not know for sure until Helmut Schmidt has visited President Reagan in Washington on 20 May. The Europeans have now noticed that the Atlantic *Gemütllichkeit* of the 70s is over. On the other hand it is also forgotten that Europeans have in recent years also called for more leadership from the United States.

Despite all the assurances of common positions on the Nato modernisation decision, Haig's visit underlined differences of opinion.

The USA want negotiations with the Soviet Union on medium range nuclear missiles "as soon as possible." But Washington will decide what is "possible" and will not be pressured by its allies.

Like it or not, Schmidt and Genscher had to agree to missile reduction negotiations taking place outside the Salt process — with only the results being incorporated in Salt. Here the USA is sticking to its hard line of not resuming Salt negotiations until the Soviets move on Afghanistan.

Although the question of arms exports to Saudi Arabia was not officially broached in Bonn, Secretary of State Haig gave a signal when he indicated to journalists that despite the Israel prob-

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DEFENCE

Cutback on aircraft use ordered to reduce spending

The Luftwaffe is partly to take out of action 100 aircraft as part of a cost-cutting exercise.

This means that only absolutely necessary cash for maintenance will be used.

This mothballing step follows a Defence Ministry decision last month that can be summed up in three words: scrapping, postponing and stretching.

Assisted by civilian and military advisers, Defence Minister Hans Apel has thus managed to save DM 1.3bn from his DM 3.7bn procurement budget for 1982/84.

The missing billion needed to make up the DM 2.3bn shortfall is expected to come from the Finance Ministry in the form of a supplementary allocation.

The defence minister has meanwhile come under a barrage on two points. On the one hand, he stands accused of not having revealed all figures and of covering up for a shortfall that is rather worse than admitted (CDU politician Manfred Wörner recently said that the Bundeswehr was on the verge of bankruptcy) and, on the other hand, the air force and army chiefs of staff are said to have complained about the cutbacks.

There is consensus among many critics that Bonn's arms policy has atrophied to the point where it is simply an extended arm of its finance policy, orientating itself not by the growing threat but only by the growing deficit.

The truth is probably that the Bundeswehr has reached a turning point in its assessment of strategic exigencies on the one hand and financial necessities on the other.

The accent was very much different during the many fat years when demands on the budget were unending — and were met.

Only what was expensive was considered good in those days. This resulted in the Tornado — an aircraft which the Bundeswehr can no longer afford.

In fact, it was the military that drove the prices up by setting excessively demanding standards on the procurement front.

The misfortune of the Bundeswehr lies in the fact that the necessity to

economise comes at the very moment when everybody — and above all Germany's foremost ally, the United States — is labouring under the impact of stepped-up Soviet armaments and the necessity for the West to improve its own military potential.

Of course, the threat from the East can be used to argue that the Tornado is indispensable. But the Bundeswehr should once more remember its limitations and the fact that it is not the only pillar of Nato.

Its main task is still to provide the necessary land forces with which to defend central Europe — no mean task and one that must be given priority. Still, without a reasonable measure of sophisticated arms technology even this task cannot be fulfilled.

The scrapping of the army's most expensive project, the anti-tank missile, Milan, demonstrates the wrong deve-

lopments that are possible even in this sector.

But none of the experts are particularly disturbed over this latest decision. Milan is a typical example of "overbred" technology. It is an ideal weapon for long-range work which virtually never occurs under central European conditions. By the same token, it is virtually useless at short range.

Even the naive lamentation that it was defensive weapons that were struck from the procurement list at the latest Defence Ministry conference cannot save this system. Granted, Milan is indeed a defensive weapon, but above all it is a product of high-tech technology that has fallen short of expectations.

Essentially, the army has acted pretty much like society at large over procurements: fascinated by the technical possibilities, it went on a buying spree without considering the consequences.

The Bundeswehr has a lacked a sense for inexpensive solutions from its very inception. Ever since the rejection of the Bonin Plan in the 1950s, simple hardware has been considered taboo — and

Soldiers are maltreated more often than is generally assumed, according to the Bundeswehr Ombudsman, Karl-Wilhelm Berkhan.

In his annual report, he said many soldiers suffered indignities without complaining.

By not reporting incidents, they hoped to avoid more troubles. But it also meant that the extent of the problem was disguised.

Herr Berkhan illustrated his report with several examples.

In one case, two soldiers held another while others poured candle wax, shampoo and cocoa over him. Then they urinated in his gym shoes.

The victim was considered not too bright, physically weak and not particularly clean. This had prompted his superior, an NCO, to tell his roommates to teach him a lesson. He told them that they could do anything they pleased short of killing the man.

So they trussed him up and tied him

to his bed. Then they took off his pants and smeared shoe polish and ketchup all over him.

The NCO was given a 9-month suspended sentence while the men received disciplinary punishment and were fined up to DM 1,600.

The incident highlights a problem the Bundeswehr has to cope with.

Some time ago, army Chief of Staff Hans Böppel pointed out that a number of serious incidents had occurred among the ranks — incidents involving violence.

Recruits, he said, were frequently mistreated by their seniors and outsiders had a particularly tough time of it.

Ombudsman Berkhan has now once more drawn attention to these occurrences.

He describes another case: two soldiers who had almost completed their basic training, went on a drinking bout. Then they went into a barracks with young recruits and beat them up so severely that one of them had to have his injuries stitched, another had a broken toe and a third was concussed.

Berkhan deplors not only the violence but above all the fact that much of this takes place with the knowledge of the men's superiors, and is indeed condoned by them.

In another incident, some draftees who had been drinking went to a sleeping colleague and tried to make him join them. When he refused they forced him to take off his pyjamas and get under the shower which they kept turning on hot and cold in turn. One of the men smeared black shoe polish over the victim's genitals and he was then forced to clean himself with a lavatory brush.

Berkhan called on officers to communicate more closely with their men.

Warner Neumann (Lübecker Nachrichten, 9 April 1981)

More soldiers maltreated than the figures indicate



Karl-Wilhelm Berkhan

paying particular attention to the mistreatment of officers and NCOs inspect barracks during the night.

Another area of concern is the similar acts of larceny.

The report points to the fact that the GDR is not up for discussion, Honecker made clear.

Honecker makes a "normalisation" of German-German ties contingent on the GDR's reducing its defence effort and not going along with the dual Nato mission to boost its medium range missiles in Europe and negotiate disarmament. And this is another condition Schmidt cannot meet.

If he were to act in accordance with the wishes of East Berlin and Moscow, he would take a step that would be tantamount to opting out of Nato.

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INTRA-GERMAN AFFAIRS

GDR plagued by production worries as party congress convenes

Production capacity is inadequate, raw materials are short, and sub-contractors are unable to keep to schedule: these are the reasons why exhortations in the GDR to increase output are bound to fail.

Workers in the GDR were last year unable to exceed the daily target "in honour of the 10th party congress" this year.

It is open to doubt whether the target was even met.

At any event, all the ado over the congress (which the people try to ignore but they can) only serves to promote a "people's debate" rather than increase output in those sectors that are plagued by shortages.

In terms of absolute figures, the East Berlin Party organ *Deutsches Volk* seems to be satisfied. A report on the departure of the congress reads: "Thanks to the exemplary performance in the great mass competition in the GDR's history, the delegates can point to targets

that have been met and to daily outputs beyond target."

So the delegates are dead on target. But the planners are clearly short of it.

Gerhard Schürer, chairman of the state planning commission and Politburo candidate since 1973, is still to present the Five Year Plan for 1981 through 1985.

Difficulties on world markets, the Polish crisis and problems in coordinating the plans of the other Comecon countries in conjunction with the GDR's medium-term planning have led to a situation in which the planners are afraid to present their figures and data in good time, which would have meant in January. Had they done so the customary big "people's debate" could have taken place before the congress.

The way things stand, there is every likelihood that Prime Minister Stoph will report to the congress on the "Directives on the Five Year Plan for the Development of the National Eco-

nomy of the GDR in the Years 1981-1985".

It will then be up to the congress to rule on the issue without the relevant figures and data of the plan being known to all and without their having been discussed.

For Schürer, who has just turned 60, this is unlikely to be a red letter day.

But all this leaves the people of the GDR cold. They realise that, things being as they are, a party congress ("The dominant force of the Workers' and Farmers' State") brings them no benefits and that they should in fact be grateful if the economic position does not deteriorate further.

Any social programme like that which was announced immediately before the 9th congress in 1976 is out of the question, and so is the 40-hour work week of which the East Germans can only dream.

Nor is Honecker's slogan to the effect that "you can only spend if you produce" likely to prod anybody into working harder.

The realisation is spreading in East Germany that more and more of the goods that are produced are exported or that they must go to the "crazy, strike-obsessed and insatiable Poles".

The East German State Security Service has every reason to be satisfied so far about Poland. There is a growing anti-Polish mood among the public and even those who ponder reforms of the GDR's bureaucratic socialism are immune against the "Polish virus".

Many East Germans have adopted an attitude that can best be summed up as "rather a terrifying end than terror without end."

Poland is bound to overshadow the Congress even should Honecker desist from the harsh tone used by Czechoslovakia's party boss Husak at that country's recent party congress.

Developments in Poland have not only hampered medium and long-term planning. They have also made progress in normalising German-German relations almost impossible.

Honecker's report is likely to dwell at some length on the "Brussels missiles

ties" has been confirmed by the East Berlin congress.

At present, no concrete progress can be made, notwithstanding the fact that Honecker spoke détente, arms control and normalisation. The point is that these terms mean different things to him and the chancellor.

In assessing the GDR's policy, it would be useful to see East Berlin for what it is: a dependable ally of the Kremlin.

Not everything can be attributed to East Germany's drive to seal itself off from the Federal Republic of Germany. Yet Honecker is more than just Brezhnev's stooge.

He is convinced that his policy is right and that it does not exclude limited cooperation with Bonn — especially in the economic sector.

(General-Anzeiger, 13 April 1981)

Honecker puts a price on better-relationships call

GDR party leader Erich Honecker wants to continue promoting better relations with Bonn, he said at the 10th congress in East Berlin.

At this, he agrees with Chancellor Schmidt.

However, the problem is that Honecker imposes conditions on bettering relations that Schmidt cannot meet.

Like in his Gera speech last October, Honecker again demanded that GDR citizenship be recognised and that the respective missions of the two countries be upgraded to embassies.

Honecker also strictly rejects the idea of the German nation, which Schmidt reaffirmed in the Bundestag.

Instead, the East German leader talks of "differences in national interest" between the GDR and the Federal Republic of Germany.

He also demanded the lifting of the compulsory currency exchange imposed on visitors to the GDR is not up for discussion, Honecker made clear.

Honecker makes a "normalisation" of German-German ties contingent on the GDR's reducing its defence effort and not going along with the dual Nato mission to boost its medium range missiles in Europe and negotiate disarmament. And this is another condition Schmidt cannot meet.

If he were to act in accordance with the wishes of East Berlin and Moscow, he would take a step that would be tantamount to opting out of Nato.

In fact, any Ostpolitik or Deutschpolitik conducted by Bonn without backing would soon find itself at a dead end and lead to yielding to East German interests.

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decision" and on the fact that the two German states must now above all discuss arms limitation and disarmament. But there is unlikely to be any reference to easing up on travel restrictions between the two Germanies or on the compulsory currency exchange for visitors from the West.

It would be surprising if Honecker were not to reiterate the demand he made in Gera and it would be equally surprising if he did not reaffirm his recently expressed view that Germany could be reunited under a socialist regime.

It is unlikely that the congress will give any signals to indicate a continuation of the German-German treaty policy and an easing of the GDR's isolation and confrontation policy as practised since last August.

The maxims dominating the 10th congress (which comes four weeks before the 10th anniversary of Honecker's accession to Ulbricht's office) can be summed up as: preserving and securing power and conserving the status quo.

But notwithstanding the fact, that Honecker's programme aimed at a continuously growing national affluence has

ground to a halt as has his cooperation policy with Bonn (which the Soviet Union opposed at the beginning), his position at the top of the Communist Party remains unshakable.

He is thus the undisputed number one personality in the GDR — without a rival and without any opposing group in the Politburo.

And since the SED leadership is "not over aged" (the average age of the 18 Politburo members after the death of Gerhard Grüneberg is 60) there is no reason for a reshuffle at the top of the Party.

There is a possibility that Albert Norden, who is 76 (and ailing) will be retired and that the youngest of the seven Politburo candidates, 44-year-old Egon Krenz, Free German youth chairman since 1974, will become a full member and be given a post in the Secretariat.

But this need not happen at this congress although a successor to Grüneberg in the post of central committee secretary for agriculture will have to be found.

Jochen Winters (Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 11 April 1981)

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■ THE ECONOMY

Bonn to borrow DM6bn to finance energy projects

The Bonn government is to borrow more than DM6bn on the international money markets in a bid to improve the competitiveness of German industry and reduce dependence on oil. It is taking the step in tandem with the French government, which is to borrow a similar amount.

A joint statement by the two governments says it has been decided to check economic decline and rising unemployment by coordinated and simultaneous efforts to boost investment.

The total amount, the equivalent of DM12.6bn, will be borrowed in lots over the next 18 months. Each country will take half.

One immediate result is that from the beginning of May, small and medium companies in Germany will be provided with credit facilities through the Bank for Reconstruction at between 2 and 2.5 per cent below normal interest rates.

Bonn took the decision after a four-hour cabinet meeting followed by the issuing of a 10-point programme by Economic Affairs Minister Count Otto Lambsdorff and Labour Minister Herbert Ehrenberg.

The loans — and this goes for both governments — are intended for investments aimed at energy-saving projects, for structural improvements and high technology, including automation.

Count Lambsdorff said that Bonn still operated on the assumption of a growth rate this year between 0 and minus 0.5 per cent. Though he was reluctant to predict an upswing, he stressed that recent data indicated that the decline has slowed.

Even so, Bonn anticipates the average

number of unemployed for the year to be about 1.2 million. The inflation rate will also be higher than originally expected, and the current forecast is five per cent.

Some of the measures to be taken with the loan money:

- The energy saving programme is to be followed up by concentrating government subsidies on particularly promising investments in this sector — heat pumps, solar energy and the hook-up of homes to district heating plants.

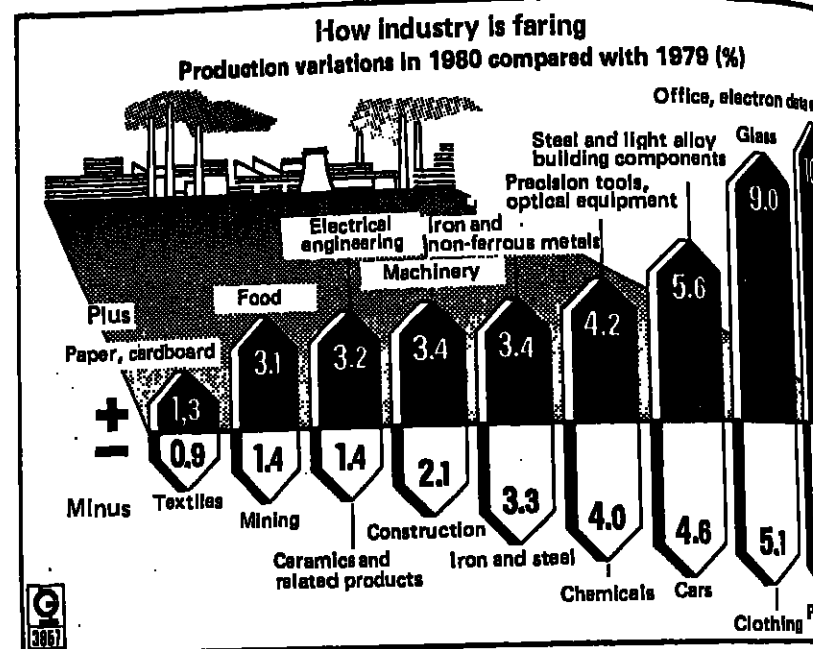
- The federal government has renewed its offer to the *Länder* to assist them in developing district heating, and talks to begin without delay.

- Bonn expects to proceed swiftly with the erection of coal-operated power stations that have already been approved. So far as nuclear energy is concerned, Bonn intends to cooperate with the *Länder* in speeding up the approval process.

- The postal system has been instructed to proceed with the development of the private communications network. This concerns primarily the long term investment for fibre-glass telephone cables. The details will be worked out in a cabinet session next month.

Ehrenberg is to work out before the summer recess measures aimed at curbing the abuse of job promotion schemes. This concerns primarily those jobless who now receive tax relief if they can show that their gainful employment extended only over a small portion of the year.

The labour Minister will also introduce measures to improve vocational skills, including special training courses,



to combat the shortage of skilled labour.

Measures to remedy the housing shortage will be dealt with in a cabinet meeting towards the end of May. Meanwhile, the housing minister is to find out how much funds the municipalities have for appropriate projects.

Bonn has warned the EC Commission against further subsidies in the neighbouring countries, pegging this warning to its new economic programme. This applies particularly to the textile industry.

The CDU/CSU opposition censured the cabinet decision as a "meaningless undertaking".

Walther Leisler Kiep, deputy CDU/CSU floor leader in the Bundestag, along with the conservative finance expert Rudolf Sprung, also criticised Bonn's borrowing, apportioning blame to the government for not creating a "shadow budget" that would largely be outside parliamentary control.

Baden-Württemberg's Prime Minister, Lothar Späth, CDU, criticised the programme as a "cloaked economic booster scheme".

Yesterday's cures 'not always the best for today'

Changing the mind is never easy. It is particularly hard when it has to do with economic policy.

What has been done in the past with great success does not necessarily offer a recipe for salvation today.

Nothing makes this clearer than the demand for a DM50bn booster programme by the Federation of Trade Unions (DGB).

But what was correct in principle in 1966 and 1975, to pump more money into the economy through deficit spending, would not only be ineffective today but would in fact be dangerous.

It would only worsen the situation.

However, the demand for booster programmes continues. So it probably is Helmut Schmidt's best idea to lead it, and thus chart its direction, just as he has done.

What transpired from the recent cabinet session on economic affairs has two major advantages: for one thing, the new package of appeals and declarations of intent is no economic booster programme at all and even less a conventional one.

And, for another, the appeals to the business community as put forward by the chancellor in his government policy statement and by the finance minister in his budget address have the advantage of charting an economic course — or at least elaborating on it.

The road sign that has been set up reads: Away from stimulating demand

and towards promoting the supply side and private initiative.

This is mandatory — if for no other reason because the government's ammunition is spent. The limits of debt have been reached, the Social-Liberal coalition having been unable after 1975 to achieve what had been achieved by the Grand Coalition: the SPD-FDP government in Bonn has not managed to consolidate the state debt caused by fighting the recession.

To pump more money into the economy through deficit spending, would not only be ineffective today but would in fact be dangerous.

Still, the few measures adopted by the government are aimed in the right direction. Thus, for instance, the continued energy-saving promotion and the intended development of district heating will help to reduce the current-account deficit.

But nothing has come so far of the investment easings for medium and small companies through degressive depreciation provisions because the budget is simply too strained.

This would actually have been in keeping with a timely and meaningful sup-

ply side economic policy. But neither this nor the intended effort to improve the skills of the jobless are magic formulas with which to achieve full employment and a balance of payments surplus.

All in all, the government programme can only be termed meagre. But at least it reduces the danger of overestimating its effects — a danger inherent in the very term "economic programme".

Especially now — in a time when collective bargaining is in full swing — it would be wrong to assume that we can simply change course and find ourselves back in the accustomed channel, certain that the state will lend a helping hand when things are not going too well.

The economic decline has such major structural reasons that a mere monetary shot in the arm is of little use.

Nobody can close his mind to the consequences arising from our huge balance of payments deficit. A country as industrialised as the Federal Republic of Germany cannot afford to make up for a two per cent GNP shortfall by borrowing.

The only way out is to corner larger market shares at home and abroad through cheaper and more inventive

products. But this is again a question of cost and of innovative spirit.

Even the administered and in many terms, questionable capital import as agreed by Bonn and Paris are only makeshift measures. They are the only new measures and will lead to the best subsidies to facilitate investment.

Still, they are a welcome makeshift as long as the Bundesbank sticks to its high interest rate policy which, contrary to economic exigencies, remains necessary for balance of payments reasons.

What matters ultimately is performance, and Germany has its trump here, as borne out by its low inflation rate.

As a result, what Germany needs is not a new economic booster programme but a reactivation of its creative potential which is atrophying due to the general welfare mentality.

This potential was brought to the right after the war when nobody knew whether a certain job was an imposition or not. Compared with the difficulties then, our problems of today are relatively speaking, peanuts.

Why do we consider a freeze on wages an insupportable sacrifice? How come our entrepreneurs have generated into mere administrators?

The salvation lies in a change of mentality which does not mean that we have to become workaholics as in the immediate post-war era.

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BUSINESS

Manufacturers vie for supremacy in emerging mini-record market

Industry is on the point of the change since the invention of the mini-disc. In this biological break through, sound is recorded to the record using a digital beam and computer. In most cases a beam is used on the playback of a needle, thus saving wear and the results a record of 12cm in diameter that eliminates background noise and offers unparalleled reproduction.

Japanese, Dutch and German firms are, in strictest secrecy, developing new generation of mini records.

A question to be solved was how to make the most perfect computer controlled recording with a sound as natural as heard by the human ear.

For the weak link in realising hi-fi reproduction has always been the poor quality of the new mini discs.

Initial reactions from the business community were also sceptical. The national Federation of Industry (BDI) pressed its "surprise at the fact that Bonn, which had hitherto seen no need to act, suddenly presented a programme without having discussed need and consequences with the business community."

The decision, the BDI said, represented no genuine change of course. Bonn's economic and fiscal policy.

The SPD parliamentary party, on the other hand, welcomed the decision. Wolfgang Roth (SPD), who had been a member of the SPD's parliamentary team, said that many of the proposals put forward by the government had been accepted.

According to the latest information, AEG-Telefunken has fallen slightly behind in the compact-digital-disc race. Sony, Philips and the Hamburg-based multinational record producers Polgram have joined forces in a bid to take the market.

Other Japanese and American companies are also prepared to enter this system.

It is to make the record players to with the new discs for marketing in Germany with a price tag around DM1,000.

Their recording techniques, the faithful compact disc use a digital system the course of which a computer stores the recording impulses and transmits them to the record without

loss of sound quality. It is here that the difference lies.

The compact-digital-disc has a diameter of 12cm and operates by laser beam rather than a needle, which means that there is no wear and tear on the material.

Initial tests came up with better sound reproduction than ever before.

But whether the laser beam is the true answer to future sound pickups will not be known until hundreds of thousands of Germans have tested the new system over an extended period.

AEG-Telefunken in Berlin has opted for a relatively safe approach which, though less spectacular, has the advantage of being rather easy to realise.

Its mini disc has been developed by Horst Redlich, the man who invented the video disc.

The final product has a diameter of 13.5cm and, operating at 250rpm, provides one hour of music for each side.

The mini disc is based on a four-channel technique that enables the lis-

tener when listening to, say, an opera to select the instruments or voices he wants to highlight.

AEG's mini discs are also recorded by the digital method, meaning that their sound quality equals that achieved by the Sony-Philips technology.

Their small diameter enables them to be fitted in a handy cassette which also serves as a protective covering. The cassette opens automatically when inserted in the record player.

Unlike today's records, the AEG mini disc has the sound pickup on the bottom by a piezoelectric method, meaning that there is still a small needle.

According to AEG-Telefunken technicians, the most important argument in favour of their mini disc lies in the fact that it can be produced by the same method as today's LP. It also uses the same materials, which means that there is no need to buy new equipment in order to produce the little technical marvel.

Those who engage in the current

Case of waiting and seeing, now that the fair is over

As Manfred Lennings, head of Europe's largest mechanical engineering concern (GHH), put it at the closing: there are more important things than counting your chickens every day.

Especially where the major corporations are concerned (though this also applies to some medium-sized companies) there seems to be a new awakening in industry.

The time of resignation in the battle against the Japanese, the oil price explosion and dramatically rising costs, aggravated by the Bonn government's reluctance to give a clear lead, seem to be over.

The business community seems to be realising once more that the entrepreneur's main function is to do something.

What German industry presented at the Hanover Fair can rightly lay claim to ranking among the best the world has to offer.

There is again a determination to make the hallmark "Made in Germany" something to reckon with.

The Japanese export offensive is viewed with a bit more equanimity and the numerous technologies aimed at saving or replacing oil that were shown in Hanover make it obvious that industry is no longer waiting for signals from Bonn but is determined to tackle the necessary structural changes on its own.

Still, this does not mean that the business community intends to relieve Bonn of its responsibility for the economy. Rarely before has the government come under such stiff criticism as at this year's Hanover Fair.

Businessmen demand decisions and framework conditions that will accelerate the structural changes on the eve of the post-oil era.

But unlike only a few months ago, the business community is preparing to

heated discussion over the new type of records seem to forget the man who matters most: the buyer.

It is he who is expected to jettison his whole lovingly collected record library and start again from scratch — not only with new records but also with a new player costing at least DM1,000.

Notwithstanding stagnating sales of records due to the recession in the past two years, last year's sales in Germany amounted to 200 million records worth DM2.5bn.

But the boom is over because producers and artists no longer seem to be creative. There seems to be no new music trend in the offing, no new singer with a future and prices for star recordings have tumbled to below DM12.

Thus record producers have too much on their plates to get worked up over a new mini record.

As a result, the industry's managers consider the whole brouhaha over the mini disc and the compact-digital-disc crazy. They fear that the buyer will be frightened off and buy even less.

After all, who is going to buy an album for DM80, knowing that he might have to throw it away in a couple of years to make room for a better and more compact recording?

Wolfgang Spahr
(Kleiner Nachrichten, 9 April 1981)

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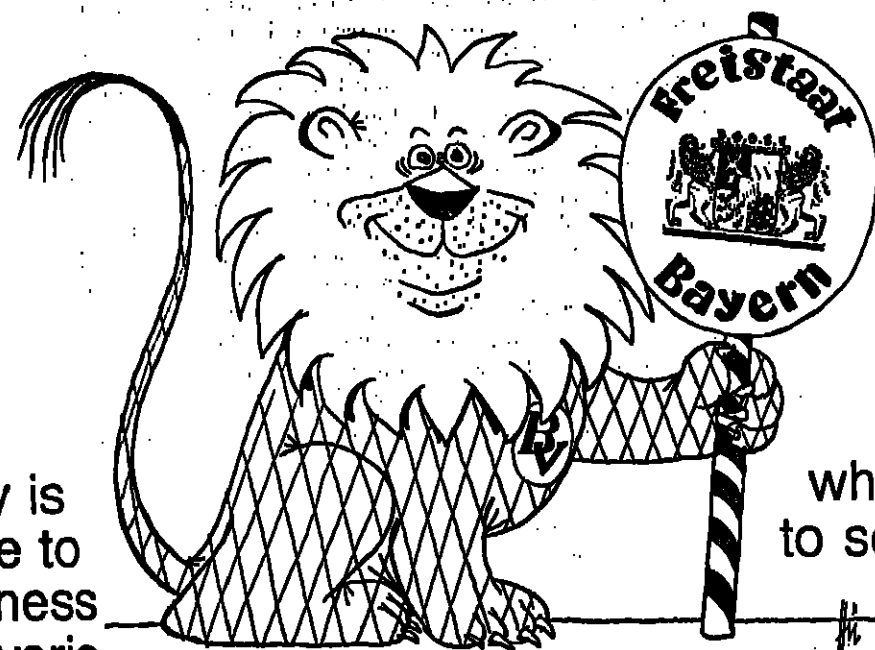
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(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 9 April 1981)

Hans Jürgen Wehrhahn
(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 9 April 1981)

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ENERGY

Cash limits jeopardise nuclear plant

The Bonn Ministry of Research says that only one of West Germany's most ambitious nuclear-power projects can be financed.

It has not yet been decided which one will get the axe.

The plants are the SNR 300 at Kalkar, in the lower Rhine, and the THTR 300 at Schmehausen, near Hamm, in the Ruhr.

The Kalkar plant is a sodium-cooled fast breeder and the other a thorium high-temperature prototype.

Both projects have been delayed and, according to current estimates, will cost a total of DM8bn, three times the original estimate.

Bonn Research Minister Andreas von Bülow emphasises that Bonn is not prepared, in the case of Kalkar, to go on paying the bill forever.

One encouraging sign for Schmehausen is that the North Rhine-Westphalian Supreme Administrative Court in Münster has lifted a court-imposed construction ban.

However, one of the main objectors to the plant, Hamm building contractor Siegfried Schleicher, does not intend to give up the fight.

And the Arnsberg Administrative Court is still not convinced that the reactor, the first large-scale German high-temperature reactor, would be really safe in the event of sabotage, earthquake or fire.

Mr von Bülow says about the Kalkar plant that Bonn would only be prepared to pay a certain amount per year towards its construction - on condition that West German electricity supply companies make their contribution to filling the DM1bn cash gap for the fast breeder. In talks with von Bülow, these companies have completely rejected this idea.

Mr von Bülow said that only the Essen utility giant RWE, main shareholder

of the joint German-Dutch-Belgian project in Kalkar had set a good example by promising to put DM62m into the project in 1981 and 1982.

And Kraftwerkunion (KWU), Germany's largest atomic reactor constructors, have promised DM20m. This brings the total up to DM82m, which is a mere fraction of the originally estimated price of DM1.6 for the fast breeder - not to mention the present estimated cost of at least DM5bn.

And even this stupendous estimate is based on the quite possibly over-optimistic assumption that there will be steady progress in construction up to 1986.

So far progress with Kalkar has been so slow that many politicians and experts had their doubts whether a fast breeder finished as late as 1986 would enable this country to keep pace with the development of this technology. The French are now 15 years ahead.

Von Bülow also pointed out that West Germany lags behind in terms of energy industry investment. Energy companies played a far greater part in research and development in other countries.

Von Bülow welcomed the proposed contribution of RWE and KWU, but only said that he would continue to look in view of the huge gap in the Kalkar project's finances.

He appealed to the electricity supply companies to make a greater contribution. West Germany could not renounce fast breeder technology in view of the expected energy crisis by the year 2000.

Von Bülow told the heads of the electricity supply companies: "There is a credibility gap between your interest in atomic energy development and your willingness to finance these developments."

If, despite all the uncertainties, the fast breeder were in operation by 1986 the Bundestag would still have to give its permission for it to start producing electricity.

Parliament reserved the right to make this decision because this is the first German plutonium project and fast breeder reactors alarm a large section of the population, especially opponents of atomic energy.

Horst Ludwig Riemer, former North Rhine-Westphalian Minister of Economic Affairs, has starkly forecast that "Kalkar will end up a ruin." He warned against pumping further billions into the project. This would be irresponsible towards the taxpayers. And he again introduced his

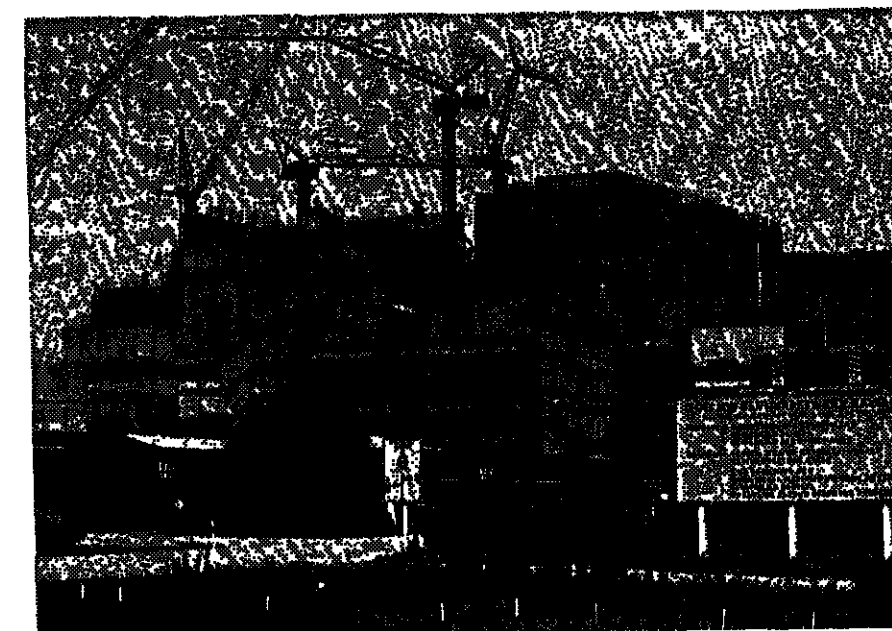
proposal - scorned by the atomic industry - to turn Kalkar into a plutonium destruction instead of a plutonium creation plant.

Even if the breeder one day became operational it would be no more than a technological and scientific ruin, he said, referring to France's huge lead in this field.

The financial disaster Kalkar now threatens to descend upon a completely different kind of nuclear technology - the Hamm high temperature reactor.

Von Bülow's experts at the Ministry of Research have worked out that Bonn can only afford to finance either Kalkar or Hamm - but not both.

If Bonn withdrew public support from



Future in doubt: the nuclear power plant at Kalkar.

(Photo: Sven Simon)

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Hamm, it would face massive resistance from the Düsseldorf SPD, who regard Hamm as having a key role in its coal technology programme. These high temperature reactors could one day be used to convert coal into gas which could then be supplied to the chemical industry instead of precious oil.

Siegfried Schleicher, backed by the Greens and other environmental groups, is fighting the Hamm project. The partial construction ban has now been lifted but he is still hopeful of getting a total ban on building in the final instance: "And then they will have to pull the whole thing down."

Hans Wollenweber

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 10 April 1981)

New solar cell 'is more effective'

A more energy-effective solar cell has been developed at Erlangen University.

The new cell is easier to produce, so it should also be cheaper.

The current cell, made of monocrystalline silicon, is 13 to 14 per cent effective.

But the new one, developed by R. Hezel of the university's Material Sciences Department, is 16 per cent effective.

This could easily be boosted to 19 per cent in the near future.

Hezel's development could be an important step towards the economical use of solar cells.

Much effort is going into reducing costs in this form of energy.

One method is to use polycrystalline or amorphous material instead of the expensive silicon chips. This is cheaper, but less effective, as greater amounts are needed.

To produce traditional silicon solar cells it is necessary so to change the material's electrical qualities that a "pn transition" - or border layer between positive and negative particles - is formed.

For this purpose extraneous substances such as phosphorus are heated up to 850 degrees and mixed with the silicon.

However, the high temperature alters crystalline structure and this affects effectiveness.

Hezel's method does not entail the use of high temperatures and so the material is not subjected to such pressure.

And the number of procedures involved

is fewer. The new solar cell has a fundamentally different structure.

The silicon is covered by a thin oxide layer of 1.2 to 1.6 nanometres. On top of this comes a silicon nitride layer 80 nanometres thick. Here positive charges arise and these are vital for the effective functioning of a solar cell.

When light has created a positive and a negative charge carrier, they are separated in an electrical field. The electrons penetrate the oxide layer and enter the metal electrodes in the silicon nitride. The electric voltage in these cells is higher than in normal cells.

The silicon nitride forms an opaque, mechanically and chemically powerfully resistant layer. This layer is the product of a chemical reaction between silan and ammonia on the silicon disc.

In this process atomic hydrogen is produced, which neutralises crystalline defects. This improves effectiveness, particularly useful in the case of polycrystalline carriers.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 8 April 1981)

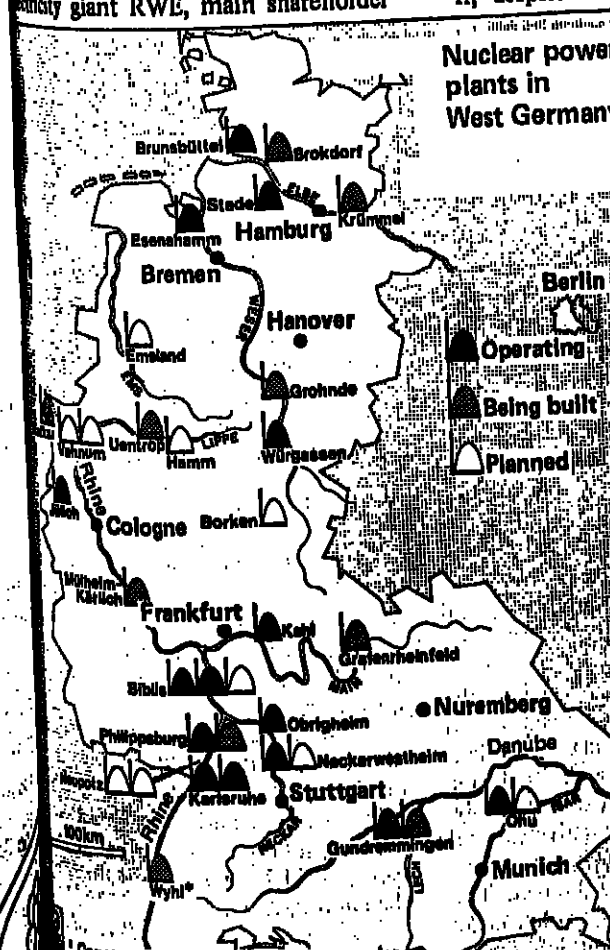
An answer to radioactive waste storage

The Karlsruhe Atomic Research Centre has developed a ceramic matrix material for storing and neutralising radioactive plutonium waste.

The Centre has developed the product in the past two years as part of a research commission from the European Community.

Powdery and liquid waste is injected into the ceramic substance and sintered at 1300 degrees Celsius. The end-product is stable, resistant to both heat and radiation.

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 8 April 1981)





Art form under challenge: a scene from an operatic version of 'The Rake's Progress'.

(Photo: Fritz Peyer)

■ THE ARTS

Despite full houses, function of opera comes under close scrutiny

Any defence of the opera as an art form these days generally meets with a shrug of the shoulders, even from progressive artists and intellectuals. Thus has been the general response since the

of arguments. One is that it takes up an unrepresentatively large amount of cultural budgets, which are too small anyway. Another is that it is a socially irrelevant, anachronistic, conservative-reactionary art form which is fossilised, belongs in the museum and serves only the upper classes' inordinate love of pomp.

This wave of prejudice reached its climax at the end of the sixties, when French composer and Bayreuth conductor Pierre Boulez demanded that all opera houses should be blown up.

If the state of art forms were judged solely in terms of audiences, a defence of the opera would be superfluous: 85 to 90 per cent of opera houses seats are regularly filled.

Some years ago the Institute of Project Studies conducted a poll which found that 21 per cent of Germans go to an opera at least once a year. And of this 21 per cent, 54 per cent had elementary leaving certificates, 30 per cent had O levels and only 16 per cent had university entrance qualifications.

Many cultural politicians could conclude from these statistics alone that all is well with the music scene in this country — and in terms of audience interest and audience social structure this conclusion would be correct.

The key question which is constantly being posed is: what can the opera offer people today? Is the opera's function that of a museum, does it satisfy the aesthetic need for "beautiful appearances" or is there still an element of striving for liberty, upheaval and reconciliation as in the case of the early bourgeois opera around 1800 (Mozart's *Magic Flute* and Beethoven's *Fidelio*).

Of course the humanitarian message of the *Magic Flute* and the indictment of political oppression and despotism in *Fidelio* remain as relevant as ever, but are the musical and dramatic means of

the late 18th century the most appropriate mode of expression.

Ninety per cent of today's opera repertoire — ballet excluded — consists of works composed before the 20th century.

So yes, opera does have an artistic function — though in the case of the two above-mentioned classics the museum's exhibits are timeless.

After 1945, Rolf Liebermann was the only German opera director to include a large proportion of contemporary works in his opera repertoire. He was head of the Hamburg Opera for 14 years, in which he commissioned many contemporary works — with the full support of the Hamburg opera-goers. It is simply wrong to say that opera audiences are not interested in contemporary works.

On the other hand, it is not true to say that the opera has no raison d'être as a museum. On the contrary. The cultivation and re-interpretation of important works from the past is part of the overall task.

Another important task is to bring opera back into the socio-cultural field of force in which it operated from its



Rolf Liebermann

(Photo: Arehly)

origins until 1932 — to transform it from within into musical theatre.

It is true that opera is unfortunately far less the focal point of artistic and social discussion today than it was for example in the twenties or in previous centuries.

The major interests of our time are mainly reflected through other art forms. Some reasons for this have been mentioned above.

However, there have been a number of innovative and provocative composers working in opera in the past 30 years. Names such as Mauricio Kagel, Luigi Nono, Hans Werner Henze, Györgi Ligeti, Bernd Alois Zimmermann and the like are all artists who in their own very different ways have underlined the essential role of opera as part of our overall cultural heritage.

Philosopher Ernst Bloch regarded the opera and music in general as spurs to hope, confidence and the realisation of a "concrete: utopia." And another great thinker of this century, Herbert Marcuse, came to a similar view of the role of art in society after a radical revision of his ideas in later life.

For many decades, Marcuse insisted on the position developed in his *The Affirmative Character of Culture*. Here he said that art should be directly integrated into life and that this would inevitably lead to the death of art.

In his final major work, *The Permanence of Art*, Marcuse revised this position. In this work, he says that art must maintain its autonomy in our increasingly bureaucratised age. This, he argues, is the only way it can escape the fetters of the dominant point of view.

And here Marcuse is referring to all art, not just to socially relevant art, whatever that may be.

Is opera too expensive? Against the background of what has already been said, the answer to this must be a categorical no. It is true, though, that this money is sometimes spent too carelessly, ineffectively and unimaginatively. And of course the opera is the most expensive item in the cultural budget. The Deutsche Oper in Berlin — which ranks with the Hamburg and Munich operas

in terms of size, subsidies and cost — had a total budget of DM59m in 1979. Of this, DM9m was recouped from box office takings and the remaining DM50m was a state subsidy.

In return, the Deutsche Oper produced 336 performances in the 1977/78 season and audiences totalled 550,000, considerably more than many top German football clubs.

No theatre attracted anything like the same numbers. Of course it is the nature of opera to be expensive. The orchestra, soloists, workshops etc. — personnel costs and gobble up the sums — 90 per cent of the Deutsche Oper's budget — which is hardly surprising when one considers that the Deutsche Oper has a permanent staff of 1,000.

Labour market and socio-economic aspects cannot be adduced as arguments for the opera, which stand or fall on its aesthetic merits. However, these considerations are completely ignored either, especially times of rising unemployment.

The large number of permanent staff at the Deutsche Oper underlines the much-cited super fees paid to stars are very much the exception.

But this does not mean that there is any justification whatever for the stars DM10,000 to DM20,000 per performance — out of taxpayers' money.

There is no denying that brilliant singing is part of the fascination of opera. A singer goes through a long, arduous training, has no guarantee of security and is subjected to great physical and psychological stress. This above-average payment for artists can be justified, though by about



Herbert Marcuse

(Photo: Swet)

rage I do not mean anything like the fees mentioned.

Finally a word must be said about foolish and short-sighted attempts to make some cultural representatives who take a larger slice of the cultural budget stoop to indicting the opera as a stiable and spoilt monster. Instead of joining together for higher subsidies people fight one another for a piece of the cake.

It ought to be understood that a free nation such as ours will be spared to spend DM65m and even more for a fighter jet to support the opera, traditional and modern art forms.

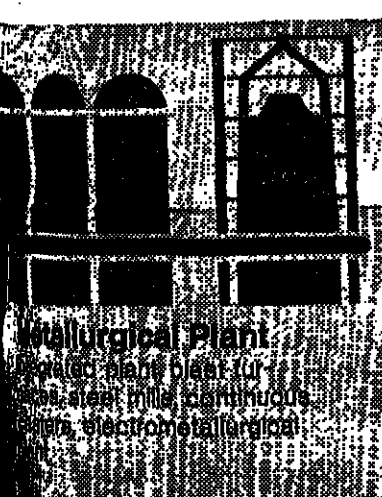
It can be said that intensive support of art and culture will improve individual's chances of combating daily pressures and attacks that are pressing him. Art — of which opera is a part — will be a key aid to the coming years.

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Machinery, Plants and Systems

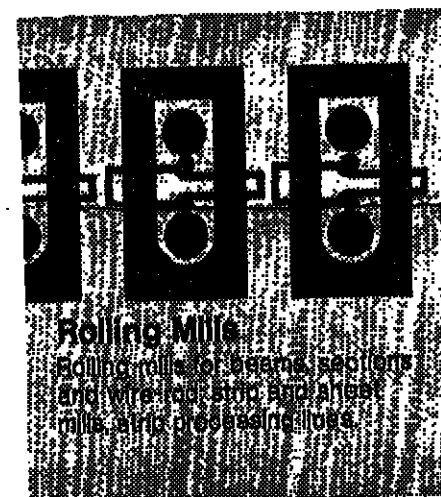
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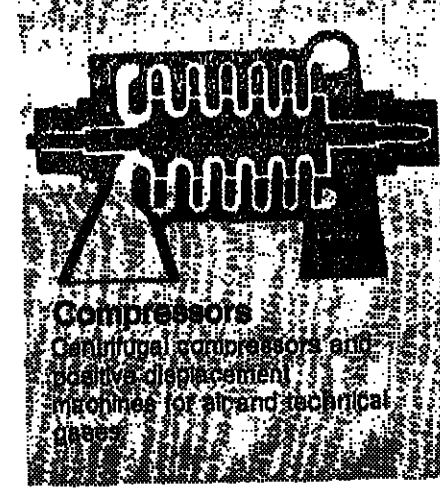
Pipe Making

Rolling mills for the production of flat products, such as sheets and coils, and for the production of round products, such as pipes and tubes.



Compressors

Rolling mills for the production of flat products, such as sheets and coils, and for the production of round products, such as pipes and tubes.



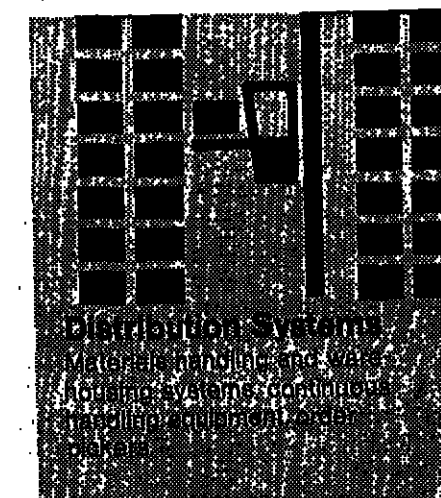
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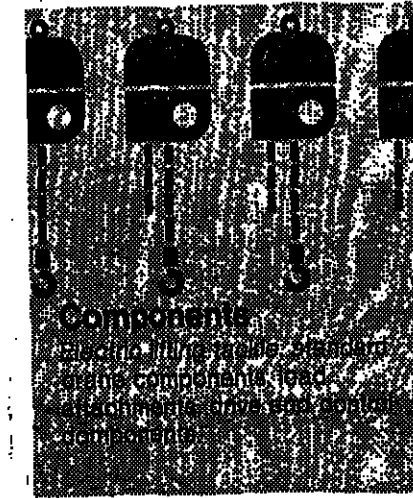
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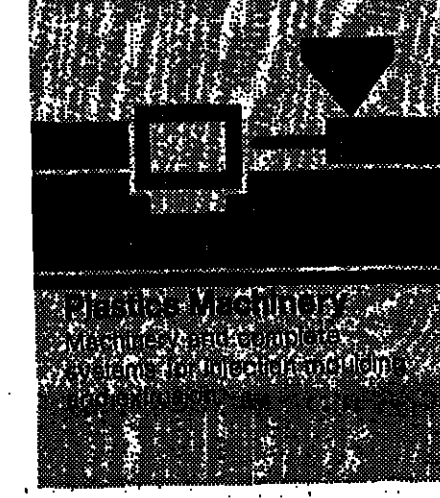
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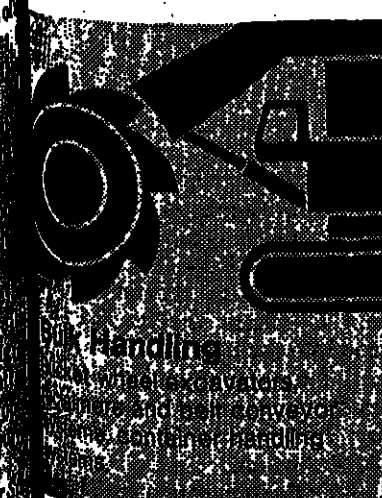
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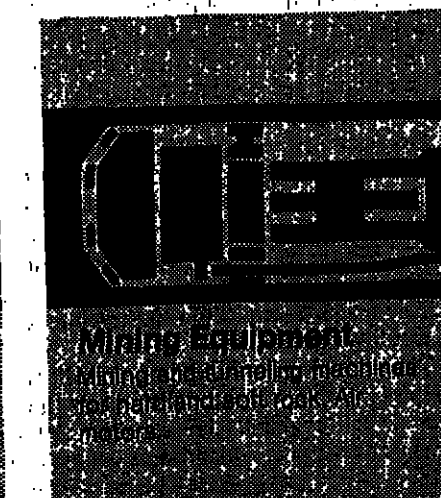
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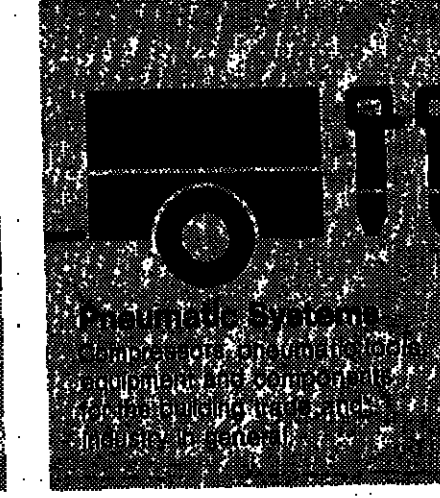
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Rolling mills for the production of flat products, such as sheets and coils, and for the production of round products, such as pipes and tubes.

MEDICINE

Advances aid the infertile, but ethical questions remain

Even those who heard only a fraction of the 600-odd papers that were read at the 3rd World Congress on Human Procreation at Berlin's Congress Centre could not escape the impression that normal procreation and pregnancy is the exception rather than the rule today.

Much of the Congress dealt with ways and means of artificially preventing and restoring fertility and with "repair jobs" for sterile men and barren women.

For couples who for one reason or another cannot have children for whom even surgery is not feasible there still remains the test tube baby.

Discussion on the ethical and legal questions that go with test tube babies was held before rows of empty seats. But even before then it had become obvious that a technology, once introduced, can no longer be reversed.

Not only the various religions — above all the Catholic Church — frown upon such juggling with ovum and semen. Lay sceptics argue that the world suffers more from overpopulation than from a baby shortage.

However, procreation specialists argue that their main objective is to help the individual, the patient.

"We are no politicians," they say, "and therefore social issues are not our concern."

The unfulfilled wish for a child, on the other hand, can impose a severe emotional strain. Moreover, biologists and doctors have learned a great deal about the mechanisms of procreation and prenatal development and are thus able to prevent malformations in infants. The picture for treating childless couples has greatly changed.

Only a few years ago the insemination of a woman with the semen of an unknown man was the subject of heated medical and ideological debate.

Today, the experts find that their work is barely disturbed by such considerations.

Heterologous insemination, as it is called, is becoming routine for both specialised doctors and hospitals.

Medical congresses like that in Berlin now only deal with techniques and the most promising methods of such insemination.

Microsurgery, a major instrument in

helping couples have children of their own, has also been improved in the past few years, though it still has its limitations.

Fallopian tube blockages can only be remedied by surgery if they are not too extensive and if the blockage is accessible. It is therefore not surprising that this type of surgery will soon be regarded as antiquated.

The original controversy over the first test tube baby that was born on 25 July 1978, Louise Brown, has given way to matter-of-fact scientific discussions.

The "medical fathers" of Louise, British Drs Patrick Steptoe and Robert Edwards, were thus a major magnet for the majority of the 1,200 participants in the Congress as were their equally successful Australian counterparts.

Sixteen pregnancies have so far been brought about in Australia by uniting ovum and semen. Two of these babies have meanwhile been born, another one is due, and nine women are only a few months short of delivery.

Edwards and Steptoe, who have so far produced two test tube babies, reported on eight further pregnancies, intimating that this was not all.

They recently abandoned their university work to open a commercial clinic in a medieval English castle.

This type of insemination is usually carried out in cases where the fallopian tubes are blocked due to some former

infection. So far as men are concerned, the method is indicated when there is a shortage of fertile semen because artificial insemination requires much fewer sperm cells than the natural variety.

Constant control of hormones and of the ovaries by means of ultrasonic devices enables the doctor to determine the most favourable moment when the ovum is ripe, but before the follicle bursts.

First, the doctor extracts the sperm. Then, using a syringe, he sucks an ovum cell from the follicle.

Following a series of laboratory tests, the semen and the ovum cell are placed in a nutrient solution where insemination takes place.

The inseminated ovum cell can now mature in an incubator and is then implanted in the uterus.

This is where the major problem lies because the mucous membrane of the uterus undergoes changes that are too fast for the relatively slow process of artificial insemination.

This timing problem can be aggravated still further when — as is being done by the Australians — hormones are used to stimulate the creation of several follicles in order to more easily obtain a fertile ovum.

On the other hand, it should be possible to add a different hormone that will slow down the changes in the mucous membrane.

Many ways to help childless to have children

as dopamine and serotonin can retard or promote hypophysis.

The pituitary gland responds to environmental sensations among other things. All these insights have led to the development of new disciplines of medicine, among them reproductive medicine, the aim of which is to make reproduction controllable in a negative and in a positive sense.

The intention is to use medical knowledge about reproductive processes to help childless couples have children (there are still considerable gaps concerning male reproductive functions) and, on the other hand, to develop new contraceptive methods — such as the pill for the man — that will help stem the population explosion in many parts of the world.

Professor Eberhard Nieschlag of the Clinical Research Group for Reproductive Medicine of the Max Planck Society deplores the fact that this line of medicine has not yet become established as an independent discipline.

Professor Hermann P.G. Schneider draws attention to the fact that West Germany's population is diminishing by 200,000 every year (the population of a city like Münster) and that ten per cent of couples are unable to have children.

This made research into the treatment of sterility essential.

The growing number of childless couples, he said, can be explained by the new insights about the interplay between the pituitary gland and hypophysis.

To overcome this synchronisation problem, reproduction researchers now toying with the idea of a technique that has long been known in animal husbandry: deep freezing of sperm and female cells or already inseminated ova, i.e. embryos.

This would make it possible to postpone the prospective mother's next cycle until she chooses the right moment for implantation.

Veterinary surgeons and doctors discussed the matter in a totally different way. They arrived at the conclusion that human sperm is almost as suitable for deep freezing as is the sperm of other animals, though unfortunately the method is not yet worked in practice. (The deep freeze method is already in use in heterologous insemination.) There is some problem with the defrosting of embryos — but given time this can be overcome.

In the United States, which has been a pioneer in this field, there is some talk of using a rent-a-sperm scheme in cases of women who for one reason or another have no uterus. The rented mother would place her uterus at the couple's disposal.

Ten to 15 per cent of all couples are unable to have children. Up to 25 per cent of this infertility is due to psychological reasons. They are anxious to remedy the situation, and the experts agree that they should be taught to cope with their problem meets with little success.

Progress in reproductive medicine has been so swift that those who today fear the future of human procreation must look at its limitations, talk about things past.

Justin West



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■ EDUCATION

'Standstill over realities of 1980s not only a matter of cash'

The vaunted "empty coffers dictate" in Bonn, the *Länder* and the municipalities has brought some action in a field of politics that experts have been tediously sifting despite fierce ideological disputes. But the action and movement, as evidenced by the statements of politicians, education ministers and spokesmen for various organisations is not directed forward.

The current slogan is not "Accept the Challenge of the 80s and 90s" by investing in the future in the most important sector by providing good education and vocational training for the largest possible number of apprentices and university students and tackling the job with vigour.

On the contrary. The courage needed to tackle the challenge and tread new paths is being stifled by another slogan that is rampant now, i.e. "stop the Experiments". It is also being stifled by financial cutbacks involving money needed for the construction of new universities, for new teaching positions and for scholarships.

Lower Saxony's Education Minister Remmer, CDU, demands that the joint Federal Government-*Länder* Commission on Educational planning be disbanded because there is nothing left to plan.

Yet educational policy makers of all parties were in agreement in the early 1970s when that body was established and the first overall educational plan was worked out in 1973. There was consensus at the time that, in the long run, 20 per cent of each school year should go on to university. Among the other important objectives were the appointment of additional teachers to make for smaller classes and a nation-wide project for comprehensive schools as an alternative to the traditional 3-tier educational system.

The percentage of students having now been reached and the comprehensive school in its various forms tested, the SPD and FDP, the most ardent protagonists at the time, are reluctant to continue on that course.

In the other political camp there is now a clear sign of smugness over the fact that the necessity to economise is about to thwart the whole project which never enjoyed much favour in that camp in the first place.

Childless

Continued from page 12

It was initially extremely difficult to reproduce the pattern of this rhythm but the use of pumps during the past 18 months helped overcome the problem.

Attached to the patient's clothing, the pump releases LH into the blood stream at exactly the natural intervals.

Science can chalk it up as a great success that this form of sterility can now be treated (25 per cent of the patients thus treated have so far become pregnant). But diagnosis and therapy are tedious.

In view of this, it is legitimate to ask whether adopting an orphan is not just as good a solution.

Angela Heck
(Die Welt, 14 April 1981)



The whole movement has been spearheaded by the teachers' associations rather than the politicians. The target of their attack is the comprehensive school — and that at the very moment when a decision is about to be reached in the *Länder* as to whether this type of school should enjoy equal status with the traditional 3-tier system.

The secondary school teachers' association now maintains that the atmosphere at comprehensive schools is "cold" and that it promotes "aggression, selfishness and violence."

This is a blend of not very clever arguments, a bizarre contribution to the topical discussion on the causes of revolt among some of our young people and a deliberate disregard for scientific findings.

According to these findings, comprehensive school students are more eager to learn than their opposite numbers in traditional schools and the atmosphere between teachers, parents and children is anything but "cold".

The teachers' association fails to mention that, as polls in North Rhine-Westphalia show, well over one-fourth of the parents would like to send their children to a comprehensive school if there were one nearby.

Instead, they repeat ancient prejudices: Comprehensive school promotes

Top talent in German schools is being wasted because of the traditional school system, unenlightened parents and the "equal opportunity" policies of education, says a group of educationists.

They say that between 0.5 and 2 per cent of pupils, the top range, is not being developed the way it is in the Soviet Union, the United States and Britain.

Objections to the system are being spearheaded by the German Teachers Association.

Moves were made last year to introduce special classes for genius children, but the project had to be postponed.

In June, the idea is to be further discussed during a "contact week".

Case histories are used to back up the arguments. One involves Michael, who by the time he was four could ski, play a musical instrument, write, add, subtract, and — using his own method — divide.

By the time he was five, he beat the chess champion of a city in southern Germany, and could speak several languages.

Michael looked forward to school — until he got there.

Just for fun, one weekend he solved all problems in his maths book, and promptly was chided by the teacher. He was no longer asked questions in class because, as the teacher put it, he knew everything.

Michael's frustration became chronic, resulting in crying fits, illness and lack of appetite.

The "talented but opinionated" and in-

only the collective as a whole, good students learn less than they could and poor ones learn no more than in traditional schools.

Another teachers' association recently deplored that a whole generation of students considers loafing more important than learning, overlooking the fact that hundreds of thousands of young people struggle to improve their grades by decimal points to enable them to enrol in university without knowing whether their efforts will be rewarded.

Such conservative efforts to declare the entire experimental phase in our educational policy a failure and finished have, of course, had their effects.

In North Rhine-Westphalia, Prime Minister Johannes Rau, SPD, has tabled a bill in the state legislature which most of his fellow party members have termed "lax and indecisive".

According to the detractors, the bill makes it virtually impossible to establish additional comprehensive schools in rural areas — and that notwithstanding the fact that the 32 existing schools of this type have to turn down one in two applicants.

Leading SPD politicians in North Rhine-Westphalia rebut this, arguing that "there are more important problems to be dealt with in these difficult times" than the tricky subject of comprehensive schools.

This fear of going ahead in matters of educational policy in a time of economic crisis is typical of the attitudes of SPD and FDP in Bonn as well.

The system, parents, accused over 'wasted talent'

troverted child" (as the teacher put it) had an IQ of 170.

Eva, now nine, was able to speak in complete sentences at the age of 11 months. When she was three she started to learn foreign languages from the guests in her parents' hotel, and by the time she was four she had a behavioural disorder.

While the Soviet Union, the United States and Britain have tackled the gifted child problem in a down-to-earth way through special summer courses for 14 to 16-year-olds (USA) or through special schools for the gifted aged between two and 15 as in Hurst, England, in this country the problem of the child genius is simply being ignored.

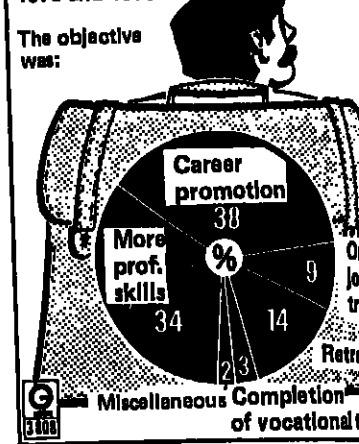
But there is an outcry now for the promotion of these children, pioneered by the German Teachers Association which deplores the manner in which our gifted children are being treated.

The Society for the Promotion of Highly Talented Children in Hamburg and the Christian Youth Village Organisation were all set to start a special class for genius children last year.

The fact that the project had to be postponed to the 1981/82 school year is not necessarily a disadvantage.

Ideas on the setup of such a class have meanwhile become clearer, contacts between educationalists and the Youth Village Organisation closer.

Further Education:
Career opportunities
2.1 million workers took part in further education courses between 1970 and 1979



The 20 per cent cutback in *Länder* projects for the construction of universities, as agreed upon in the coalition negotiations, and the cutback in funds set aside for basic research and technology in the Research Ministry budget are telling examples.

Yet the coalition government stuck with the motto "Courage to Tackle the Future". This is irreconcilable with the backs on vital investments in the future such as those in the research and education sectors.

Courage would have meant setting priorities — especially in times when funds are in short supply.

If the jungle of subsidies were cleared there would be ample funds available.

The constant talk about the risk of unemployment being the greater risk than the standard of education makes it mandatory to take decisions.

selection regarding vocational training. Peter Abgasser

(Nürnberg Nachrichten, 7 April 1981)

SPORT

German girls win world hockey championship

Germany has won the women's hockey world championship for the second time in five years. The team beat the defending champions, Holland, 4-2, on penalties in the final in Buenos Aires.

The score at the end of extra time was 1-1, but the goalie, Susi Schmidt, saved three out of four penalties by the Dutch girls.

Wolfgang Strödter, the team trainer, had hardly wished for a better birthday present.

Strödter, holder of 1976 international title, said: "This championship meant as much to us as winning a gold at the Olympics."

The team, with an average age of 22 years and six months, is unusually young.

Strödter singled out Schmidt for special mention, describing her as the best goalkeeper in the competition.

"We won. We held on. It was a performance, especially in the second half and extra time, when I thought we were the better side."

Strödter's gold medalists Zimbabwe, Canada, Czechoslovakia, New Zealand, and the Soviet Union were also highly-rated. This was the first time these teams were members of the FIH, which organises the Buenos Aires event.

Buenos Aires victory ends turbulent period

Wolfgang Strödter, trainer of the West German women's hockey team which won the world championship in Argentina, was only 32 when he took over the team last year.

He was appointed after the girls had sacked their predecessor. They had asked for a change of coach as runners-up in the world championship without a trainer. Disappointment and bitterness overshadowed the victory.

Some time before the German Hockey Association and the national team re-established a working relationship.

Strödter has brought calm and hard work back to the team. But when Bonn was asked to pay him a full trainer's salary, the officials gave the thumbs down.

The coffers were empty, there were not the funds to pay anything more than a nominal trainer.

The officials did not show a great deal of skill in appointing Strödter, a former player and even though the German women's hockey team is one of the best in the world.

It must be seen against a background in which other national trainers have been far less successful — though not because they are any less talented. Generally the sporting talent in Germany is not strong enough for the

But this in no way detracts from the West German team's achievement. Strödter, who is an honorary trainer but hopes to be officially appointed national trainer later this year, pointed out that there were four world-class teams in the competition, the two finalists plus the Soviet Union, who took third place, and Australia, who came fourth. Strödter also said that Argentina, who came sixth, are now also very strong.

It is already clear that there is going to be some bitter arguing between the two hockey organisations about qualification criteria for the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles.

Strödter says: "Our world championship title in Argentina is definitely an important step towards qualification."

The trend which emerged in Moscow despite the absence of some of the world's strongest teams was evident in Argentina. Improved training methods have made women's hockey more athletic, faster and harder.

Strödter's verdict: "Despite technical

This time last year, Hamburg SV footballers were on the point of winning two championships, the league and the European Cup. In the end, they won neither.

But the club treasurer did not complain. Payment of DM1m in bonuses was saved.

Now Bayern Munich is in a similar position.

No doubt club treasurer Scherer



On the way to a dramatic victory. The German women's hockey team (black dresses) in action against the defending champions, Holland, in the final of the world championships in Buenos Aires. (Photo: dpa)

imperfections, the Soviet Union were superior to all other teams athletically. We will have to draw our conclusions from this."

He regards this team as the core of his Olympic squad for 1984.

However he recognises that profes-

sional and family commitments can often make it very difficult to keep a successful team together: "Women often give up competitive sport at the age of 25 whereas men can put up world-class performances at 30."

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 7 April 1981)

Winning is nice, but it can be expensive for soccer clubs

would be as pleased as the next man if Bayern did the double, but from a purely economic viewpoint one victory would be enough — as it would ensure participation in next year's European Cup.

For this reason, the Bayern board has put two provisions into its bonus scheme. It will pay each member of the squad DM40,000 for winning the German championship.

This will be payable in two instalments, one immediately and one after the club has reached the second round of the European Cup in the 1981/82 season.

If, as in 1975, Bayern win the European Cup, they will only get the DM40,000 bonus if they fail to win the Bundesliga.

As manager Uli Hoeness points out,

Students' Zeitung

economic success is the only factor which decides the amount of the bonus.

A European Cup victory increases a team's international value on the transfer market and in friendly games. This is why manager Scernai wants a pay rise.

Hoeness plans next year to sell club emblems and pennants and all kinds of other odds and ends. He is confident this will prove a money-spinner.

Fans who want their team to win everything going are unlikely to appreciate all the cold calculation of marks and pennings.

But it's the only way to survive in this risky business.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 10 April 1981)

Promotion problems 'not solved by using fancy descriptions for events'

International German championships are sprouting up like daffodils in May — in tennis, table tennis, judo, skiing, rowing, boxing and other disciplines.

These championships often promise more than they deliver, as the recent intercup boxing tournament in Münster underlined.

The temptation is strong for sports officials to upgrade national championships by calling them "international" — it sounds far better.

But these fine-sounding titles don't exactly attract the world's elite.

In fact the devaluation of international German championships in recent



years has tended to make people forget that some of these competitions — in rowing for instance — are genuinely world-class events.

The "international" has not pulled in huge crowds, either. The public is much better informed about sport these days, and will only turn up en masse when major international stars are performing.

The organiser of the International German Indoor Tennis Championships

in Sindelfingen can tell a tale or two about this problem.

Borg, Connors and McEnroe were conspicuous by their absence. The International German Championships title is about as exclusive as a package tour to Majorca, so the organisers described the competition as the "strongest 75,000 dollar competition."

This did not exactly get the crowds pouring in.

The public are not gullible. They are not impressed by fine wrapping. They want to see top-quality performances, and not hear vain promises of great things to come.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 30 March 1981)